

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 EB-11 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00

RSR-01 SSO-00 /139 W

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R 140920 Z APR 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2905

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EG

SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS NOTES, APRIL 13-14

1. USG OFFICIAL ELMER BENNETT'S STATEMENT TO EFFECT THAT US MIGHT SOMEDAY HAVE TO SECURE OIL SUPPLIES BY SENDING EXPEDITIONARY FORCE TO ME IS CARRIED ON PAGE ONE OF APRIL 13 AHRAH AND AKHBAR. ARTICLES DRAW ON NEWS AGENCY REPORTING AND DO NOT COMMENT.

2. APRIL 13 PRESS NOTES THAT SADAT RECEIVED WAR MINISTER ISMAIL APRIL 12.

3. APRIL 13 PRESS ALSO REPORTS THAT CAIRO GOVERNOR ASHOUR
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CHAired FIRST MEETING OF CAIRO HIGHER WAR COMMITTEE APRIL 12, WHICH REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED CIVIL DEFENSE PROBLEMS. FURTHER MEETINGS WILL BE CONDUCTED FORTNIGHTLY. IN ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT, ASU FIRST SECRETARY GHANEM HAS ASKED GOVERNORS OF ALL PROVINCES TO CONTINUE CIVIL DEFENSE EXERCISES AND HAS SAID THAT AIR RAID SIRENS WILL BE USED FOR FUTURE TESTS.

4. APRIL 13 AKHBAR SHOWS PHOTOGRAPH OF PARTICIPANTS IN FUNERAL FOR FEDAYEEN KILLED IN BEIRUT RAID EARLIER THIS WEEK. CAPTION OF PHOTOGRAPH STATES THAT TWO PARTICIPANTS WERE IZZAT RIBBAH AND MUNZIR KHALIFA, MEMBERS OF BSO GROUP WHICH ASSASSINATED WASFI TEL.

5. HEYKAL' S WEEKLY ARTICLE, " THE MARSHAL WHO WON," IS GIVEN TO HIS MEETING WITH INDIAN FIELD MARSHAL MANEKSHAW SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. HEYKAL NOTES THAT 1971 INDIA/ PAKISTAN CONFLICT REPRESENTED MOST CONSPICUOUS EXAMPLE OF WARS BETWEEN SMALLER POWERS. HEYKAL ASKED MANEKSHAW ABOUT INDO- PAK WAR. MANEKSHAW SAID MOST IMPORTANT MATTER HAD BEEN PRECISE DIRECTIVES GIVEN HIM BY PRIME MINISTER GHANDI. SHE HAD PLANNED FOR OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES AND HAD TOLD MANEKSHAW THAT, SHOULD HER POLITICAL EFFORTS FAIL, HE WOULD BE GIVEN ORDERS TO ACT. MANEKSHAW SAID HE COUNTED ON STUPIDITY OF YEHYA KHAN; AND IN FACT, KHAN' S STUPIDITY IN LAUNCHING FIRST AIR STRIKE GAVE INDIA PRETEXT FOR MILITARY INTERVENTION. MANEKSHAW ADDED THAT PAKISTANI LEADERSHIP HAD BEEN CONFUSED: CONTROL WAS WEAK AND " ORDERS WERE NOT ISSUED BY A COMMAND THAT WAS CONVINCED AND CAPABLE OF CONVINCING." REGARDING JUNE, 1967, WAR, MANEKSHAW TOLD HEYKAL THAT EGYPTIANS DID NOT MAINTAIN COOL NERVES AFTER FIRST ISRAELI STRIKE, AND GAVE UP TOO SOON. EGYPT' S COMMANDERS HAD LOST THEIR SEFL- ASSURANCE. HEYKAL RECORDS MANEKSHAW AS SAYING THAT LIMITED WARS BETWEEN SMALL POWERS WOULD CONTINUE TO OCCUR. SMALL POWERS MUST ENSURE THAT INTERNATIONAL BALANCE IS IN THEIR FAVOR, THAT THEY HAVE SUFFICIENT WEAPONS, AND THAT THEIR INDUSTRIES AND SUPPLIES ARE DISPERSED. HEYKAL SAYS THAT, ACCORDING TO MANEKSHAW, GREAT POWERS WOULD SEEK TO END WARS BETWEEN SMALL STATES. CONCERNING USE OF FORCE, EVERYTHING DEPENDED ON THE MAN MAKING THE DECISION IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS. (COMMENT: EGYPTIANS WILL RELATE MANEKSHAW' S COMMENTS ABOUT INDO- PAK WAR TO THEIR OWN SITUATION, AND SEE IN IT PARALLELS BETWEEN INDIA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND ISRAEL ON ONE HAND, AND PAKISTAN AND EGYPT ON THE OTHER.

WITHIN THIS CONTEXT, HEYKAL' S ARTICLE IS SHARP CRITICISM OF NASSER' S AND FIELD MARSHAL AMER' S LEADERSHIP AND PREPAREDNESS FOR 1967 WAR; IT ALSO HOLDS CAUTIONS ABOUT OTHER, FUTURE, WARS.)

6. APRIL 14 ARTICLE BY QUDDUS IN AKHBAR IS TWO- PRONGED, AND CONTAINS REFLECTIONS ON BOTY ISRAELI RAID ON BEIRUT AND TERRORISM, AND ON EGYPT' S DETERMINATION TO ACT. MAIN POINTS OF QUDDUS' ARTICLE ARE:

(A) TERRORISM IS NOT PRACTICED BY STATES, BUT BY INDIVIDUALS; STATES DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO PRACTICE TERRORISM. THEREFORE, UNSC DEBATE ON ISRAELI RIAD INTO LEBANON SHOULD NOT BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE SUBJECT OF TERRORISM.

(B) ALL ASSAULTS ON PALESTINIANS ARE PLANNED BY US, WHICH STANDS AS THE ACCUSED IN ANY ACT OF AGGRESSION (ON PALESTINIANS). US IS DETERMINED TO ACT AGAINST PALESTINIANS, USING ISRAEL. US AND ISRAEL HAVE A COMMON IDENTITY. ISRAEL IS BUT AN INSTRUMENT IN US INTELLIGENCE GAME.

(C) CONCERNING A WAR, STATE OF WAR ACTUALLY EXISTS IN ME, AND IS RELATED TO OCCUPATION OF LAND AND NOT TO SPECIFIC MILITARY EVENTS. PALESTINIAN OPERATIONS ARE CONTINUATION OF STATE OF WAR.

(D) QUDDUS SAYS HE DISLIKES AND REJECTS THE WORD " WAR," AND SAYS THAT ANY SUBSTITUTE EXPRESSION WILL BE THAT OF PATRIOTIC SENTIMENT AND SPIRIT. FOREIGNERS ASK WILL EGYPT GO TO WAR, THEN PROPOSE LOGICAL AND RATIONAL REASONS WHY SHE SHOULD NOT. THE FOREIGNER, SAYS QUDDUS, THINKS WITH HIS BRAIN, DEPENDING ENTIRELY ON ARITHMETIC; THE EGYPTIAN THINKS WITH HIS PATRIOTIC SENTIMENT, AND SUBORDINATES ARITHMETIC TO HIS LOVE FOR EGYPT.

(E) CONCERNING EGYPT' S FUTURE MOVES, EGYPT' S THINKING HAS COME TO ITS CONCLUSION, " AND WE HAVE CHOSEN THE CONDITION WE MUST LIVE IN, HOWEVER CONFLICTING IT MAY BE WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARITHMETIC."
GREENE

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